Death of prisoners in Tihar Jail due to drug addiction

♦356. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be please to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there have been some deaths of prisoners in Tihar Jail recently due to drug addiction and smack and free availability of heroine in the jail owing to close nexus between the drug peddlars and the jail Officials;

(b) whether Government have conducted any inquiry into the circumstances leading to the death of prisoners and in the matter of peddling of drugs in the jail; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof, stating the action taken by Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S.B. CHAVAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise in view of reply at (a) above.

Freedam fighters, pension to self-exiled persons

♦358. SHRI V. NARAYANA-SWAMY : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to

(a) whether Government have any proposal to grant freedom fighters pensionary benefits to those freedom fighters who were in self-exile and were running parallel government against the British and the French;

(b) if so, by when it is proposed to be implemented; and

(c) if the answer to part (a) above be in the negative, what are the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S.B. CHAVAN) : (a) No, Sir. The question of grant of Samman pension from 1-8-80 under Swatantrata Sainik Samman Pension Scheme to such freedom fighters who suffered self-exile in respect of the liberation of Pondicherry from French rule was considered by the Government in September, 1984 on the recommendation of the Non-Official Advisory Committee but it could not be possible for the Government to accept the Committee's recommendation. It was decided that these categories of freedom fighters may be left to be covered under the State Freedom Fighter Pension Schemes.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Under the existing provisions of the Swatantrata Sainik Samman Pension Scheme, a person who remained underground for the qualifying period is considered eligible for Samman Pension, provided he was:—

(1) a proclaimed offende, or

(2) one of whom an award for arrest/head was announced; or;

(3) one for whose detention order was issued but not served.

As such persons who suffered self-exile had not remained underground against arrest warrants it could not be possible for the Government to consider them for pension under Swatantrata Sainik Samman Pension Scheme.

Operation of a Taiwanese representative in India

♦359. SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: Wih the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) what are the circumstances under which a Taiwanese representative could continue his operations in the country for a long time in the absence of diplomatic relations with that country;

(b) whether there had been any security lapses in this regard;